AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Original) A method of forming an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:
drawing an optical fiber;
applying a layer of primary coating material to the optical fiber;
applying a layer of color coating material to the optical fiber;
applying a layer of secondary coating material to the optical fiber; and
wherein the layer of primary coating material, the layer of color coating material, and the layer of secondary coating material are each applied prior to the other layers being cured.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the layer of color coating material is disposed between and adjacent the optical fiber and the layer of primary coating material.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the layer of color coating is disposed between and adjacent the layer of primary coating material and the layer of secondary coating material.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of applying a layer of the primary coating material further comprises applying a first layer of primary coating material adjacent the optical fiber and applying a second layer of primary coating material between and adjacent the first layer of primary coating material and the layer of secondary coating material.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the layer of primary coating material is disposed between and adjacent the optical fiber and the layer of secondary coating material and the layer of color coating material is disposed adjacent the layer of secondary coating.

15. (Original) An optical fiber formed by the method of claim 10.

16. (Original) A method of forming an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:

(a) drawing an optical fiber;

(b) applying a layer of primary coating material to the optical fiber;

(c) applying a layer of color coating material to the layer of primary coating material; and

(d) applying a layer of secondary coating material to the layer of color coating material; and

(e) subsequently curing the layers of steps (b), (c), and (d) following application of the secondary coating material.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein (c) further comprises applying a second layer of primary coating between and adjacent the first layer of primary coating material and the layer of secondary coating material.

Claims 18-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A system for forming an optical fiber, comprising:

means for drawing an optical fiber;

means for applying a layer of primary coating material <u>having a first modulus</u> to the optical fiber;

means for applying a layer of color coating material to the layer of the primary coating material, but before the application of a layer of secondary coating material; [[and]]

means for applying the layer of secondary coating material to the layer of the color coating material; and

means for curing the coating materials thus applied subsequent to the application of the last applied coating material.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for applying a layer of primary coating material further comprises means for applying a first layer adjacent the optical fiber and means for applying a second layer adjacent the first layer.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an optical fiber, comprising:

(a) drawing an optical fiber;

(b) applying a first layer of coating material to the optical fiber;

~~applying a second layer of coating material to the first layer;~~

(c) applying a second layer of coating material to the first layer;

(d) applying a third layer of coating material to the second layer;

wherein said first layer has a first modulus and is chosen from a primary coating layer and a coloring layer; said second and third layers having second and third moduli respectively, are chosen from a primary coating layer, a secondary coating layer, and a color coding layer, wherein each layer differs from the other layers and the first, second, and third moduli differs from each other; and

(e) simultaneously curing the first, second, and third layers after application of the third layer.